Claims

[c1]   1. A milking parlour comprising:

a base on which the animal to be milked can stand;

a milking robot; and

a cleaning device for cleaning an exterior of at least a part of the milking parlour, the cleaning device comprising a source of cleaning foam.

[c2]   2. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cleaning device is an automatic cleaning device.

[c3]   3. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cleaning device comprises an element for placing the cleaning foam under pressure.

[c4]   4. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 3, wherein the element comprises a pump.

[c5]   5. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cleaning device comprises a nozzle that is disposed in a fixed position relative to the milking parlour.

[c6]   6. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cleaning device comprises a nozzle that is movably disposed relative to the milking parlour.

[c7]   7. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 6, wherein the nozzle is fastened to a rail.

[c8]   8. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 6, wherein the nozzle is fastened to a robot arm.

[c9]   9. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cleaning device further comprises a contents-measuring device for measuring the contents of the source of cleaning foam.

[c10]   10. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 9, wherein the contents-measuring device emits a control signal or an indication signal.

[c11]   11. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 1, wherein the milking parlour further comprises a presence-detecting device for detecting the presence of an animal in the milking parlour, the presence-detecting device, upon detection of an animal in the milking parlour, emitting a signal to the cleaning device, which signal stops or prevents the operation of the cleaning device.

[c12]   12. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 1, wherein the milking parlour further comprises a cleanliness-detecting device for detecting the cleanliness of the milking parlour, the cleaning device being controlled with the aid of data from the cleanliness-detecting device.

[c13]   13. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 1, wherein the milking parlour further comprises a closing element for closing

the entrance to the milking parlour when the cleaning device is in operation.

[c14]   14. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cleaning device comprises a rinsing device for rinsing the exterior of at least a part of the milking parlour after foam cleaning.

[c15]   15. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cleaning device comprises an additive element for adding additives to the cleaning foam.

[c16]   16. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 1, wherein the milking parlour further comprises a cleaning-starting element for starting the cleaning.

[c17]   17. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 16, wherein the milking parlour further comprises a computer comprising a memory, the computer storing points of time of visits of animals to the milking parlour in the memory, and wherein the cleaning-starting element is activated by a cleaning-starting signal emitted by the computer, on the basis of historical data stored in the memory in relation to the points of time of the visits of the animals.

[c18]   18. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 17, wherein the milking parlour further comprises an identification system for determining the identity of animals and for detecting that

animals are visiting the milking parlour, the computer storing the points of time of the visits of the animals in the memory with the aid of data from the identification system.

[c19]   19. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 17, wherein the computer comprises an analysing unit for determining off-peak periods in the visits to the milking parlour.

[c20]   20. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 17, wherein an average cleaning duration is stored in the memory of the computer.

[c21]   21. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 20, wherein the computer comprises an analysing unit for determining off-peak periods in the visits to the milking parlour and, with the aid of the historical data, emits an off-peak signal indicating that an off-peak period is expected within a predetermined period.

[c22]   22. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 21, wherein, on reaching the beginning of an off-peak period with an expected duration that is at least comparable with the average cleaning duration, the computer emits an activation signal for the cleaning-starting element.

[c23]   23. The milking parlour as claimed in claim 17, wherein the computer activates the cleaning-starting element three times a day.

[c24]   24. A method of cleaning the exterior of at least a part of a

milking parlour, the milking parlour comprising a milking robot
and a base on which an animal to be milked can stand,
comprising:

providing an automatic cleaning device;

providing a source of cleaning foam for the automatic cleaning
device; and

applying the cleaning foam to at least the part of the milking
parlour by means of the automatic cleaning device.

[c25]   25. The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the cleaning
foam is applied at least on the lower part of the milking robot.

[c26]   26. The method as claimed in claim 24, further comprising
determining off-peak periods in the visits by animals to the
milking parlour, the cleaning of at least the part of the milking
parlour taking place at least partially during an off-peak period.